

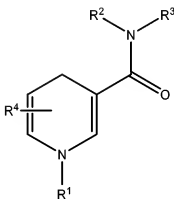
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Amendment

In the Claims

Claims 1-33 (canceled).

34. (currently amended) A therapeutic system comprising a prodrug which is converted to a substantially cytotoxic drug by the action of NQO2, at intracellular sites where NQO2 is expressed, and a compound of formula I



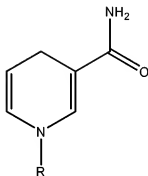
wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of substituted alkyl, including substitution by CONH₂, OH, halogen, CN, and COOH; aryl; substituted aryl; CONR_aR_b, where R_a and R_b are independently H, alkyl, or substituted alkyl, and R² and R³ are independently H, alkyl, or substituted alkyl and R⁴ is any of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, halogen, CN, COOH, CONH₂, or OH, wherein the compound can pass reducing equivalents to NQO2, in a form for administration to a patient in need thereof, wherein the prodrug is CB 1954.

Claims 35-40 (Canceled)

41. (previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the compound is 1-(carboxamidomethyl)-dihyronicotinamide.

42. (previously presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the compound has formula

II



wherein R is a substituted alkyl, comprising one or more groups selected from the group consisting of CONH₂, OH, halogen, CN, and COOH.

43. (previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the alkyl group is a C1 to C6 alkyl.

44. (previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of -CH₂CONH₂, -CH₂CH₂CH₂SO₃⁻, -CH₂CH₂OH, -CH₂CH₂CH₂OH, and -CH₂CH₂COOH.

45-47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented) The therapeutic system of claim 34 wherein the system is effective at killing tumor cells in the treatment of cancer.